

The elephant Chandrasekharan died on 10-4-1115 M.E., i.e., A.D. 1940. The records about his age vary and are conflicting. From his appearance he must have been past 95 at the time of death. He was taken over to the Royal Stables on 15-8-1058 (A.D. 1883) from the Travancore Forest Department. His tusks were symmetrical and graceful and swept up in a semicircular curve. The weight of the tusks is $142\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

Major Stanley writing on the age of Chandrasekharan in the same report, says that he had an ascertained minimum age of twenty-five and a supposed approximate age of forty years in 1913. This would mean that the animal might have been between 52 and 67 years of age at the time of death. This is considerably low, compared with Mr. W. T. Blanford's statement that an 'elephant is fully grown, but not fully mature, at 25 years of age, and individuals have been known to live over 100 years in captivity; in a wild state their existence probably extends to 150 years', and the evidence furnished by 'Ortela' the famous 170-year old elephant of Ceylon described on p. 619, Vol. xxxix of the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*. Major Stanley's study on the duration of life in vertebrate animals which appeared in the *P. Z. S.*, 1931, based on actual observations for a number of years brings out 50 as the average life of elephants. It is interesting to note that the thirteenth century Jain Zoologist, Hamsadeva, has said in his 'Mrigapakshisastra' that the maximum age attained by elephants in captivity is 100.

The elephant was particularly remarkable for his sagacity, gentleness and almost human intelligence. He never harmed a living creature till his death. Various stories are current evidencing one or other of his qualities, an authentic one being his refusal to erect a pillar in one of the pits dug for the purpose in connection with one of the Murajapam festivals in Trivandrum. Usually the elephant was a very willing worker and his refusal to hoist the pillar which he held still with his tusk and trunk surprised the mahout who on looking into the pit found that a dog which had strayed in had got into the pit had fallen asleep. It was only after the dog was roused and driven away that Chandrasekharan lowered the pillar into the pit.

The death of an animal so remarkable for his size and intelligence, was a personal loss to H. H. the Maharaja, whose kindness to animals is proverbial. As a tribute to this mighty pachyderm, its head is set up and given a prominent place in the Royal Art Gallery, 'Ranga Vilas' at the Fort, Trivandrum.

TRIVANDRUM,

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IV.—THE MALAYAN ELEPHANT.

There are four points in Mr. Theodore Hubback's excellent article under the above caption (August 1941 *Journal*—Vol. xlii, No. 3) I should like to touch on.



‘ Chandrasekharan ’ in a placid mood



—and in ‘ Musth ’